

Rise, David

From: Bahrman, Sarah
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 07:06
To: Rathbone, Colleen; Rise, David; Meredith, Sienna; Burkland, Barb; Mohr, Mindy
Subject: RE: Hardin

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thanks for the heads up! Any word on whether Crow Agency or other nearby communities are also currently affected by flooding?

Sarah E. Bahrman | Acting Director, Water Program | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 8
(p) 303.312.6243 | (c) 303.903.8515 | (f) 877.876.9101

-----Original Message-----

From: Rathbone, Colleen
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 6:34 AM
To: Bahrman, Sarah
Subject: FW: Hardin
Importance: High

FYI

Colleen Rathbone, Chief
Wastewater Unit
US EPA Region 8
ph: 303-312-6133
fax:303-312-6116

-----Original Message-----

From: Rise, David
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 2:33 PM
To: Campbell, Gwen; Rathbone, Colleen; DalSoglio, Julie
Subject: FW: Hardin
Importance: High

This is an FYI for you as I expect complaints about this situation to make it in to the regional office eventually.

In the email string it mentions sewer problems about 4 years ago. In 2011 there was heavy rain and flooding in the area. It happened again, worse, in 2013.

David Rise, NPDES Program
EPA Region 8, Montana Office
10 West 15 Street, Suite 3200
Helena, MT 59626
(406) 457-5012

-----Original Message-----

From: Rise, David

Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 2:28 PM

To: 'Keen, Lisa-kay'; Kusnierz, Lisa

Subject: RE: Hardin

Thanks Lisa-kay;

What I learned from WW Operator John Stanich and PWD Russell Dill is that it rained hard Friday night, Saturday night and Monday night. On Monday night there was standing water in the streets and the Billings TV news crew was there filming it. On Tuesday the lift station was pumping @1,000 gpm with about 2/3 of it being bypassed into the old lagoons. With that bypass they plant was still running at @0.8 Mgd. The design is 1.0 Mgd. At one point they had about 1.7 Mgd coming down the lines. Evidently they have a severe inflow problem during storm events.

When I talked with Russell Dill he told me in the old days the city would run a six inch line from the sewer to the storm drain, which leads directly to the Bighorn River, and relieve the sewer back-up that way. He chose not to do that and was catching a lot of flak from people. I told him pumping into the storm drain was not allowed by their permit and doing so would expose them to liability under the CWA. They are or were yesterday running with the bypass valve open nine turns, ten turns is fully open, so the majority of the wastewater is running to the old lagoons with a full load still running to the WWTP. Enough that the clarifiers were running murky instead of clear.

So there is the background as I have it. Please do refer any other complaints to me or Lisa Kusnierz.

David Rise, NPDES Program
EPA Region 8, Montana Office
10 West 15 Street, Suite 3200
Helena, MT 59626
(406) 457-5012

-----Original Message-----

From: Keen, Lisa-kay [mailto:LKeen@mt.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 1:42 PM

To: Kusnierz, Lisa; Rise, David

Subject: RE: Hardin

Lisa/David,

I have been receiving calls regarding the Hardin flooding. Here is the information I have gathered thus far...

I received a call at 15:16 on 06.02.2015 from Greg Butts out of the DEQ Kalispell office.
406.755.8967

- Flooding due to heavy rains on 06.01.2015
- Waste water backing up and out of the lift station
- WW backing up into residential basements
- Greg with Tony (used to be the operator), stated the town has a lot of I/I
- Russell Dill(current operator?) stated they couldn't pump the WW into the storm drain because of permit so not doing anything

- Craig Daft (current PWD?) was another name I was given as a contact

I received a phone call at 8:24 on 06.03.2015 from Amy Brockheart of Hardin. 755.764.0140

- Located at 15 North Terry Avenue
- Rain 2 nights ago, approximately 7 hours of hard rain
- Sewer overflow out of toilet and tub into the basement
- Flooded basement with sewerage
- Sump set up as per town ordinance - pumps out into the street
- Have been pumping and hauling buckets of waste out of basement
- Went to town meeting last night (06.02.2015) and the council is blowing the incident off - stating it is a once in a lifetime event (Amy remembers it happening about 4 years ago with heavy rains)
- Others on the block also have basement flooding
- Told her to pass my name along and encourage them to call

I received a phone call at 9:46 on 06.03.2015 from Stacey Sedan. 406.591.4331

- She owns a 4-plex located at 561/518 1st Street West
- Basement apartments are flooded due to rain event
- Sewerage was overflowing in toilets, tubs, and floor drains
- Sump system in place and has been working but not keeping up
- Residents are displaced from homes because of the damage, water, and smell
- Town meeting last night - no resolution, and town is not responding to needs

I will refer anyone else who calls to you. The people of the town are very upset and feel as though the town is blowing them off and not willing to do anything to help out.

Sorry, and good luck!!

Lisa-kay

-----Original Message-----

From: Kusnierz, Lisa [mailto:kusnierz.lisa@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 11:14 AM
To: Keen, Lisa-kay
Subject: Hardin

Hi,

I got your message. I just got out of one meeting and now have a webinar but wanted to let you know that we do permit Hardin and are aware of the issues there. David got a call Tuesday and sent the follow up email below. They are currently sending 3/4 of the flow to the lagoon and inquired about discharging to the storm sewer (which is why David referenced that in his email).

Lisa

-----Original Message-----

From: David Rise [mailto:davidrise4@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 1:50 PM
To: wwtp@hardinmt.com
Cc: Rise, David; Coate, Carson; Kusnierz, Lisa

Subject: NPDES permit requirements

Mr. Dill;

During your flooding emergency you may bypass as much as needed into the old lagoons. You have made your notification as required by the permit.

The NPDES permit does not authorize or allow in any way pumping from the sanitary sewer into the storm drain, which goes directly to the Bighorn River. That is not authorized by the permit and doing so would expose the City of Hardin to potential administrative, civil or criminal liability under provisions of the Clean Water Act, Title 33, Chapter 26 United States Code.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

David Rise